

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE WILL PREPARE IMPACT STATEMENT ON CURRITUCK OUTER BANKS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that it will prepare an environmental impact statement on ways to preserve portions of the Currituck Outer Banks of Virginia and North Carolina.

The draft impact statement is expected to be available for public comment this fall and will discuss a wide range of possible alternatives for protecting and conserving the fish and wildlife resources of the fragile barrier island ecosystem.

The Currituck Outer Banks are a major wintering habitat for large numbers of waterfowl and are used by the endangered peregrine falcon and bald eagle and the threatened loggerhead sea turtle.

In addition to holding two public meetings last May in Virginia and North Carolina, the Interior agency has also consulted extensively on the matters to be addressed in the statement with Federal, State, and local officials, local civic groups, development interests, and conservation organizations.

The notice of intent to prepare an EIS was published in the August 30 Federal Register.

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